

REMARKS

The Office action of August 3, 2010 has been carefully considered and the application has been amended accordingly.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, as amended, and new claims 11 and 12 are present in the application. Claims 2-5, 9 and 10 have been cancelled. New claim 12 corresponds to the claim allowed in applicants' related European Patent No. 1534377 B1, date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent August 4, 2010.

As previously submitted, it should be appreciated that a key benefit of applicants' pad is that the glycerin keeps the polyurethane soft while allowing exudate from wounds to be absorbed by the pad/sponge, the gentian violet is sufficient to kill pathogens, and the gentian violet does not transfer to the patient's skin. As stated under "Actions:" in the publication "drug facts and comparisons" cited by the Examiner, "Because of its cosmetic effects and staining of clothing, gentian violet has generally been replaced in practice by other topical agents." Further, under the heading "Patient Information:" the publication states, "Gentian violet will stain skin and clothing. Do not apply to an ulcerative lesion; may result in 'tattooing' of the skin." Applicants' claimed invention avoids the undesirable features described by the publication. See the specification at page 10, lines 22-30. Also, in the first full paragraph on page 10, it is discussed that the amount of gentian violet must be used in correct volumes so as not to impede adsorption of exudate. In other words, once the pad is dried, by eliminating the water, there is adequate volume in the sponge to absorb exudate.

It is obvious that applicants' pads have attributes that, though useful and novel, are not obvious to one of ordinary skill. All known prior art, including prior art being submitted in an IDS nibble

away at portions of wound care problems. None appear to solve all of the necessary factors that would result in a complete product.

The patents to Shanbrom 5,811,471 and 6,361,786, disclose pads comprised of polyvinyl alcohol, differing from applicants' polyurethane pads. These prior art pads must be saturated with a liquid, most likely water. Otherwise, the medical personnel would be applying a dressing that is the equivalent of a dry piece of wood. Polyvinyl alcohol pads are as soft as a chamois but need to be re-softened frequently with water or another appropriate liquid. This need can occur many times during the day. Applicants' pad can be applied and left for days without losing its softness and requires no application of supplemental moisture.

The known problem of staining of skin and clothing by gentian violet has been solved by applicants' invention. The device of Shanbrom is known to create staining during use. Thus the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. The specification clearly describes applicants' results and the functional language added to claim 8 does not add new structure to the claim. Regarding process claims 1, 6 and 7, the claimed processes will, inherently, produce the non-staining feature of applicants' invention as stated in the specification, and it is not seen that functional language need be added to the claimed process.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application is requested and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone conference with the Examiner in the event that allowance is not forthcoming. Use of the Patent Highway procedure may be appropriate in the present

application.

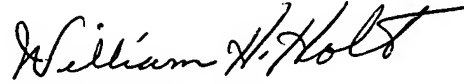
February 3, 2011

Customer Number: 25,628

Law Offices of William H. Holt
12311 Harbor Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192
Telephone: (703) 491-8880
Facsimile: (703) 491-8444

email: WilliamHolt@HoltLawOffices.com

Respectfully submitted,



William H. Holt
Reg. No. 20766